1	2	3	4	5
Bangladesh	1002.18	1094.57	9.22	2.10
France	945.00	1055.23	11.66	2.02
Sri Lanka	630.89	920.88	45.96	1.76
Indonesia	533.71	825.92	54.75	1.58
Malaysia	773.69	746.78	-3.48	1.43

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

GATS-visas for developing countries

731. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether EU countries, U.S., U.K. and other developed countries have introduced a system of GATS (General Agreements on Trade Services)-Visas for accommodating the needs and demands of the developing countries for export of services under the WTO regime;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, and Government's assessment about the extent to which Indian demands have been met thereby;

(c) whether developing countries have been trying to form a coalition during the recent (current) round of WTO negotiations; and

(d) if so, the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir, no system of GATS-visa has been introduced.

(c) and (d) In the context of the on-going mandated negotiations on services under the General Agreement on Trade Services (GATS) at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), several developing countries including India have been trying to work together to bring about greater liberalisation in the temporary movement of natural persons, including through greater transparency and due process in visa procedures. India had submitted a proposal on liberalisation of such movement at the WTO, identifying the barriers faced and suggesting strategies to achieve meaningful liberalisation. Furthermore, requests have also been made to important trading partners in individual service sectors seeking the removal of barriers to access for contractual service suppliers. Negotiations on this issue are underway.